

**Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Meeting Day/Date:</b>	Thursday, November 14th, 2024   2:00 – 4:00 PM	
<b>Location:</b>	Teams	
<b>Members Present:</b>	Peter Tolisano, Laura Watson, Jennifer Abbatemarco, Allison Fulton, Kathy Flaherty, Will Erdman, Ellen Econs, Kate Bohannon, Katherine Gallo, Heidi Pettersen, Herb Boyd	
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Kyle Barrette, Dana Begin, Liz Feder, Elsa Ward, Angela Duhaime	
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Chair and Vice Chair Nominations:</b> Kyle Barrette, DMHAS	Will Erdman and Heidi Pettersen were presented as nominees for the Chair and Vice Chair roles. Will and Heidi discussed their interest in the roles and their applicable experience to support their leadership.	Will Erdman elected as Chair and Heidi Pettersen elected as Vice Chair.  Kyle will coordinate meeting with Will and Heidi to discuss next steps.
<b>Crisis Continuum Updates:</b> Dana Begin, Director of Evidence Based Practices and Grants, DMHAS	Dana provided an overview of the state's new Peer Respite program and Crisis Stabilization program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Crisis Stabilization program, called the REST Center (Rapid Evaluation, Stabilization and Treatment) is located in New Haven and is operated by Continuum of Care, in close collaboration with Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC). The program operates as a 23-hour rapid stabilization center and offers an alternative to Emergency Room care for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.</li> <li>The Peer Respite Program, Gloria House, is located in New Britain and is operated by New Life II. The program operates 24/7 as a short-term (few days to a week), non-clinical respite for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis or stressors that could be addressed through the program. The program is staffed by Peers with lived-experience and provides peer-to-peer support in a safe and supportive environment.</li> </ul>	Kyle will send out links to the website for each program. Council members who have questions about the programs will reach Dana by email.
<b>Block Grant updates:</b> Kyle Barrette, DMHAS	Kyle provided updates on the FFY 2025 projected budget for the Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House and Senate have each released their proposed budgets. Each budget includes additional funding for both block grants. However, final approved budget has yet to be finalized.</li> <li>New administration will likely make changes to the proposed budgets so we may not know our final block grant amounts until 2025.</li> </ul>	Kyle will send out presentation slides.

	<p>Kyle provided updates on the FFY2025 combined block grant application and annual report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The combined block grant application was submitted on September 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• The Substance Use Block Grant annual report and Mental Health Block Grant annual report will be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Recovery Campaign:</b> Elsa Ward, Director, Office of Recovery Community Affairs, DMHAS</p>	<p>Elsa provided updates on Recovery Media campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media campaign (Recovery Happens Here) is being continued for a second year and incorporates both mental health and substance use recovery.</li> <li>• Elsa working with vendor to record additional videos of individuals sharing their story of recovery. The campaign will also incorporate art, music and other creative products developed by individuals in recovery. Campaign attempting to reduce stigma.</li> <li>• Elsa is looking to broaden the campaign to include more individuals and clarified that people don't need to self-identify as in recovery to participate</li> <li>• Individuals interested in taking part in the recovery campaign can reach out to Elsa by phone or email.</li> </ul> <p>Elsa provided updates on plans for Recovery month 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elsa shared plans for an event to celebrate recovery month. Current plan is to hold the event in Manchester and to collaborate with the organization Pathfinders to host the event. Event will include music, wellness activities, and speakers throughout the day. The focus will be on all forms of recovery, and all are welcome.</li> <li>• Elsa noted that she will be hanging artwork created by individuals in recovery at OOC in the entrance off the elevator. The artwork will rotate out every three months. People are welcome to come by to view and can purchase (if for sale by the artist) through the artist's QR code.</li> </ul>	<p>Elsa will disseminate the flyer for the Recovery Media Campaign to members.</p>
<p><b>Recovery System updates:</b> Elsa Ward, Director, Office of Recovery Community Affairs, DMHAS</p>	<p>Elsa provided updates on the "Recovery Happens Here" campaign and website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The campaign and website developed to help bring about awareness, reduce stigma, and remind everyone that recovery is possible.</li> <li>• Updated website includes videos, art, poetry, and testimonials as part of "Faces of Recovery" which highlights stories of recovery and wellness.</li> <li>• Individuals interested in submitting art, poetry, or a video testimonial can do so by emailing the contact listed on the website and submitting a consent form.</li> </ul>	<p>Kyle will send out a link to the website to council member.</p>
<p><b>Planning Council business:</b> Kyle Barrette, DMHAS</p>	<p>Kyle provided updates on a new DMHAS webpage being created for the Planning Council that will provide an overview of the council, its role within the state, by-laws, agendas and minutes, as well as contact information for anyone interested in joining the council. Kyle sought feedback from Planning Council members regarding the website.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members suggested including meeting presentation slides, resource links, “reasons to join” for interested parties, testimonials from council members.</li><li>• Members suggested including link to Planning Council webpage in prominent place on DMHAS website and/or social medial channels.</li></ul>	
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	February 6th, 2025, 2:00-4:00pm via Microsoft Teams	

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